

ST. JOHN NUUWSLETTER: December 2021

Happy December St. John Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. December brings us darker nights and a time to look for light. Whether you seek the flame within you, in a star announcing a baby's birth, a celebration of the days getting longer, a child lighting the Kinara during Kwanza, seeing the bioluminescence dancing in a night swim, or the lights of the menorah, cultures around the world celebrate darkness and the bringing of light during the month of December. On this second night of Hanukkah, Irving Greenberg reminds us, "The proper response, as Hanuukkah teaches, is not to curse the darkness, but to light a candle."

Gabriella Brand will be visiting us this month for three of our services. Gabriella Brand is an educator, consultant, writer, linguist, and adventurer. She is a lay minister in the international Unitarian tradition. Her most recent writing appears in The Globe and Mail and the Gyroscope Review. She is a Pushcart Prize Nominee. Visiting St. John annually since 2008, she knows the island and the fellowship well. She lives in Connecticut with her husband, the Rev. Douglas Peary. Together they have four children and TEN grandchildren.

As a reminder we meet at the **Giff Hill School Lower Campus** Sundays at 10am. We require masks while inside and we encourage all to get vaccinated. If you need information on how and where to get vaccinated, feel free to reply to me, Erin Lieb at erin.lieb@gmail.com.

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10am - Lower Giff Hill Meeting Hall

December 5: Rome fell and the barn burned...but life goes on -- Gabriella Brand

The world has been through a lot in the last eighteen months and many people feel a bit shaky. But the world is ALWAYS going through a lot, as history shows us. Gabriella Brand will examine various historical and personal events to provide insight into the human spirit.

December 12: Celebration of the life of Sylvia Weaver -- Gabriella Brand and Suki Dickson Buchalter

Sylvia Weaver and her husband, Ken Damon, were founding members of the St. John Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Please join us and her visiting family in celebrating her life and legacy on St. John. Bring your memories of Sylvia and pictures you may have to share.

December 19: Tribal Protection and Things People Say -- Gabriella Brand

What do we really mean when we wish people a Happy New Year? Or when we say “Have a good day!” What does the Icelander mean when she says “Pekka Reddast” or the Japanese says “Gambatte kudasai!” We mutter so many sayings without thinking, but in actuality, we are taking part in a human ritual of tribal protection. Gabriella Brand looks at the ways in which we engage in social generosity and good will.

December 26: Caring Christmas Circle - Gail Karlsson and Suki Dickson Buchalter

The greatest gift we can give one another is the gift of sharing ourselves in community and the gift of listening to one another deeply. We will gather together to reflect on the year, the craziness of the pandemic, the gifts that we all have within us, the problems we have faced, and joys to celebrate. We will look to the new year in hope and healing. Gail and Suki will lead a roundtable discussion of listening, sharing, and love.

STJUUF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yoga with Suki

Last year Suki generously led us in yoga on Sunday Mornings at 9am. If you are interested in attending, please let Suki know that you plan on showing up.

sukistjohn@gmail.com

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

Good news! A new sound system is on the way. Hopefully this will help everyone hear the speaker a little bit better. Thanks to David DiGiacomo and Jason Bowers in helping us find the set up that would fit our group best.

We Are All in This Together

If you have information you would like to distribute, please let me, Erin Lieb, know. If you have a community event that you would like to submit for the January newsletter, pass it my way. If you have ideas for programs, outings, weekday classes/discussions, I am all ears.

DECEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Coral Bay Holiday Fair

Saturday, December 5th, 11a-4p

An afternoon of art, crafts, food, and music at Oasis in Coral Bay. Contact Claire 340-474-1751 or Adrien 779-893-7714 for more details.

Sing St. John Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 18th, 7p

Join in the fun of the holiday season with the St. John Recovery Choir and the Ocamá Select Children's Choir both directed by Kristen Carmichael-Bowers. Tune in from the comfort of your couch via Zoom. They will mute you so you can sing your little heart out to your favorite holiday tune. Follow Sing St. John on Facebook for more information or contact Kristen at kristen@singstjohn.org

“Fireburn” Documentary Film & Panel Discussion

Saturday, December 18th, 4p-6p & 7P-9P

Bajo El Sol is hosting this award winning film that explores the inhumane conditions that prompted the 1878 labor revolt on St. Croix. Seating is limited. If you wish to attend, please email: fireburnfoundation@gmail.com to reserve a seat.